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POSTAL
OFFICE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. C2001-3/20

Complaint on First-Class Mail Standards

Docket No. C2001-3

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING ON POSTAL SERVICE MOTION
FOR LATE ACCEPTANCE OF TWO SETS OF INTERROGATORIES**

(Issued March 19, 2002)

The Postal Service has moved for late acceptance of responses to two sets of interrogatories. One set was due February 5, 2002 (DFC/USPS-GAN-57-59); the other was due February 11, 2002 (DBP/USPS-142-145). The Service attributes the filing delay to time involved in collecting operational details from the field, personnel changes associated with a Headquarters Reduction-In-Force, and assigned counsel's participation in the litigation of the pending omnibus rate case (Docket No. R2001-1). Motion of the United States Postal Service for Late Acceptance of Filing Responses to Interrogatories, March 15, 2002, at 1.

In Presiding Officer's Ruling No. C2001-3/19 (issued March 6, 2002), I approved an extension of the deadline for filing complainant's direct case. This extension, among other things, helps mitigate any prejudice associated with this delay in filing timely responses. Based on this and the reasons the Service has cited, the Postal Service Motion is granted.

RULING

The Motion of the United States Postal Service for Late Acceptance of Filing Responses to Interrogatories, filed March 15, 2002, is granted.


Ruth Y. Goldway
Presiding Officer